



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY
100 GALLERIA PARKWAY, NW
STE 1750
ATLANTA GA 30339-5948

COPY MAILED

DEC 30 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:
Connell Reynolds	:
Application No. 10/631,146	: DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: July 31, 2003	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. 61807-1020	:

This is a decision on the renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed August 30, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/399,982.

The petition is **Granted**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
- (2) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional; and
- (3) the reference to the prior-filed provisional application supplied in an application data sheet (ADS)(37 CFR 1.76) or as an amendment in the first sentence of the specification following the title. *See* 35 U.S.C. 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(iii). The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on July 31, 2003, within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application, Application No. 60/399,982, which was filed on July 31, 2002, for which priority is claimed. A reference to the prior-filed provisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title.

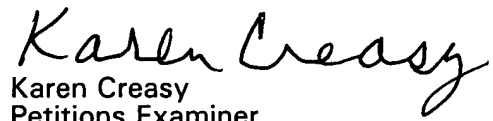
The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed provisional application was submitted during the pendency of the nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. *See* 35 U.S.C. §119(e). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e), the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim of benefit to prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/399,982 is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed application. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed provisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Karen Creasy at (571) 272-3208.

The examiner of Technology Center AU 3736 will consider applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/399,982, filed July 31, 2002.


Karen Creasy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt